

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Melissa Wagoner (Kennedy)	202-224-2633
April Boyd (Kerry)	202-224-4159
Peter Kovar (Frank)	202-225-5931
Michael Mershon (McGovern)	202-225-6101

**LAWMAKERS URGE FERC TO ACT FAVORABLY
ON FALL RIVER LNG MOTION**

Senators Edward Kennedy and John Kerry, and Congressmen Barney Frank and James McGovern today sent a letter to the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission urging the agency to grant a motion submitted by the City of Fall River asking for a full evidentiary hearing on the Weaver's Cove application to establish a Liquefied Natural Gas facility in the city. The motion also urges FERC to approach the issue of New England's natural gas needs, including the potential location of LNG plants, from a regional perspective rather than simply considering LNG applications on an individual basis.

A copy of the letter to FERC Chairman Patrick H. Wood III is attached. The motion has been posted on the web sites of four elected officials: www.kennedy.senate.gov; www.kerry.senate.gov; www.house.gov/frank; www.house.gov/mcgovern.

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2005

Hon. Patrick H. Wood III
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
Room 11A
888 First Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Chairman Wood:

We, the undersigned members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, write to urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in the strongest possible terms to grant the attached motion of the city of Fall River, Massachusetts that calls for a meaningful procedural format for consideration of how best to meet the needs of the Commonwealth's consumers for augmented supplies of natural gas.

Please note that this is *not* a pro forma request by the affected members of the Massachusetts congressional delegation. It is a serious and urgent message to the FERC to abandon separate decisional tracks for each of the applicants for import authorization and certification of associated pipeline expansions that would bring liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Fall River. Instead we believe deeply that, in order to assure decision making that would be consistent with the public interest requirements of the law, a single proceeding that consolidates within it not only the application of Weaver's Cove, but also consideration of all alternative means of satisfying the need of the New England region for added supplies of natural gas including remote options away from populated areas, is the only sensible way to proceed. In that regard, we believe that the FERC should call for a complete evidentiary public hearing on an issue fraught with potential danger for the citizens of our state as well as disastrous consequences for the economic well being and development of the areas involved.

Let us make it crystal clear that we do *not* oppose the importation of LNG to New England or to Massachusetts. Rather we believe that there are safer alternatives available, such as locating these terminals in remote areas. It is not possible to arrive at rational decision making if proposals directed at meeting the same regional need are considered on an ad hoc basis. The FERC must consider all the potential projects and weigh the comparative advantages and disadvantages of each. We are fully prepared to support those projects, which, after careful comparative evaluation, are demonstrated to serve best the citizens that the Commission and we are bound to protect -- projects that best promote the public interest in this new, post 9/11 environment.

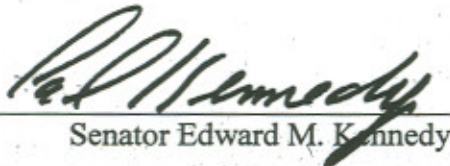
In the aftermath of September 11, 2001 and the ongoing War on Terrorism, we as a nation should not sanction *new* investment in the development of LNG terminals where 1) those terminals would operate in densely populated urban areas (like Fall River), and 2) the terminals

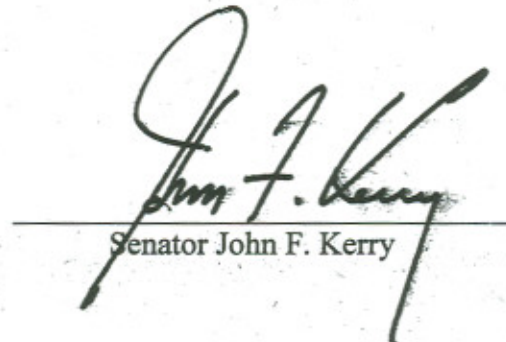
will necessitate the travel of LNG supertankers (each longer than a football field) through miles of narrow waterways in close proximity to densely populated communities.

Amazingly, the FERC already has indicated that it is considering issuing permits to the applicant *before* considering whether public safety requirements have been met. We find this proposed method of proceeding unconscionable.

In conclusion, we urge the FERC to call for a full comparative adjudication process *before* making a determination concerning Applicants' request for final permits. We ask that the Commission give the most serious consideration to our concerns.

Sincerely,


Senator Edward M. Kennedy


Senator John F. Kerry


Congressman Barney Frank


Congressman James P. McGovern